

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 NEA-10 OMB-01 NIC-01

DRC-01 /160 W

----- 089021

R 271551Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 781

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STOCKHOLM 3454

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CI SW

SUBJECT: CHILEAN ISSUE IN SWEDEN

SUMMARY: WITH KING GUSTAF'S FUNERAL OVER, SWEDES NOW TURN MOST OF THEIR ATTENTION TO CHILEAN COUP, WITH AN EMOTIONAL INTENSITY REMINISCENT OF THEIR LATE ATTENTION TO VIETNAM. SWEDISH AMBASSADOR TO CHILE EDELSTAM IS DEPICTED AS ANTI-JUNTA HERO. LOCAL GROUPS ARE INVOLVED IN WHIPPING UP SENTIMENT AND RAISING MONEY FOR CHILEAN RESISTANCE, AND SWEDEN SEEMS TO BE OPENING ITS DOORS TO CHILEAN LEFTIST REFUGEES. END SUMMARY.

1. EVEN IN COMPETITION WITH DRAMATIC ELECTION AND KING'S DEATH, CHILEAN COUP HAS ATTRACTED INTENSE INTEREST IN
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SWEDISH GOVERNMENT, MEDIA AND PUBLIC. PRESS COVERAGE

IS HEAVILY CONDEMNATORY OF JUNTA AND FEATURES TORTURE STORIES, REPRESSION, POLICE AND ARMY BRUTALITY, ETC. ITT AND CIA GET SOME MENTION AS HAVING SOMETHING TO DO WITH COUP, BUT-FOR LACK OF CONCRETE EVIDENCE--FINGER OF BLAME IS MOSTLY POINTED AT "IMPERIALISTS" AND OTHER ABSTRACTIONS. PRIMIN PALME ALLUDED EQUIVOCALLY TO ITT AND CIA IN A COUPLE OF PRE-ELECTION SPEECHES (SEE STOCKHOLM 3259) BUT HAS SINCE AVOIDED ANY MENTION OF US INVOLVEMENT, THOUGH HE DWELLS AT LENGTH ON CHILE AS TRAGIC VICTIM OF "CAPITALISM" IN VIRTUALLY EVERY PUBLIC APPEARANCE.

2. SWEDISH AMBASSADOR TO CHILE EDELSTAM IS HEAVILY PUBLICIZED AS A SORT OF POPULAR HERO OF THE COUP. (SIXTY-YEAR-OLD AMBASSADOR ENJOYS REPUTATION AS ACTIVIST DIPLOMAT; SWEDISH ADMIRERS DUBBED HIM "THE BLACK PIMPERNEL" FOR HIS ACTIVITIES IN GETTING REFUGEES OUT OF NORWAY DURING WWII). RADIO SWEDEN CORRESPONDENT REPORTS THAT EDELSTAM IS WORKING WITH MEXICAN AND INDIAN AMBASSADORS TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FROM JUNTA TO MOVE MORE REFUGEES OUT OF CHILE. EDELSTAM REPORTEDLY WANTS TO ARRANGE FOR 200 TO COME TO SWEDEN. MEXICANS HAVE REPORTEDLY OFFERED TO ACCEPT 1000. EDELSTAM IS QUOTED AS CRITICIZING UNHCR REP FOR AGREEING THAT ALL REFUGEES TAKEN OUT BY UNHCR BE SCREENED BY MILITARY COURT WHICH WOULD DETAIN THOSE "GUILTY OF CRIMES".

3. IN SWEDEN THERE IS ORGANIZED EFFORT TO STIR SYMPATHY FOR COUP VICTIMS. CARLOS PARRA, ASSISTANT INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY OF CHILE'S RADICAL PARTY, IS IN STOCKHOLM THIS WEEK, URGING SWEDEN TO ACCEPT REFUGEES AND GIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO "DEMOCRATIC" FORCES IN CHILE. PARRA, WHO HAS BEEN GETTING COURTEOUS TREATMENT FROM SOCDEM PARTY, TOLD PRESS HE IS WORKING OUT OF LONDON. HE SAID MAIN CENTER OF CHILEAN SOCIALISTS IS IN ROME, WHERE A COMMITTEE IS NOW AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS FROM RESISTANCE LEADERS IN CHILE.

4. SWEDISH BRANCH OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IS CALLING FOR A "NATIONAL EFFORT" IN SUPPORT OF ANTI-JUNTA FORCES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND HAS APPEALED TO ALL POLITICAL PARTIES TO JOIN IN FUND-RAISING AND MORAL SUPPORT OF ANTI-JUNTA POSITION. MODERATE PARTY ISSUED STATEMENT CRITICAL OF AMNESTY TACTICS WHILE NEVERTHELESS CONDEMNING JUNTA AS ANTI-DEMOCRATIC. MODERATE STATEMENT SAID RIKSDAG IS PROPER PLACE FOR POLITICAL PARTIES TO TAKE THEIR STANDS ON POLITICAL ISSUES.

COMMENT: ALL THIS IS REMINISCENT OF NOT-TOO-LONG-PAST
EMOTIONAL INVOLVEMENT OF SWEDES IN VIETNAM ISSUE, AND
LIKE VIETNAM THE ANTI-IMPERIALISTS HAVE MONOPOLIZED THE
STAGE. EVEN SOBER NEWSPAPERS LIKE SVENSKA DAGBLADET
FEEL NEED TO USE STRONG LANGUAGE IN CONDEMNATION OF
JUNTA EVEN WHEN THEY APPEAL IN SAME ARTICLE FOR MORE
REAL FACTS ABOUT COUP AND PRE-COUP PERIOD.
OLSEN

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